

CD - 1981

Dear Allen:

Our Department would find useful a Special National Intelligence Estimate on "NATO Country Reactions to Possible Forms of US Nuclear Assistance." Specifically, we need analysis of the reaction of NATO countries to possible US assistance in developing an independent French nuclear capability or to the creation of a multilateral NATO capability. The following questions chiefly concern us:

1. Would the reaction in NATO countries be favorable, unfavorable or indifferent if the US were to assist in the development of an independent French nuclear capability either by a) transfer of those items described in Section 91c of the Atomic Energy Act or b) outright transfer of US weapons and delivery systems?
2. Would other NATO members be induced by this US action to undertake nuclear development programs of their own in order to qualify for similar assistance? Would they alternatively press for development of a multilateral NATO capability?
3. Would other NATO countries regard such US assistance to France as likely to strengthen or weaken the NATO Alliance a) in a military sense b) in a political sense?
4. Would the reaction of NATO countries be favorable, unfavorable or indifferent if the US were to propose, or indicate a receptivity to creation of a multilateral NATO capability? In particular, what would be the reaction if such a capability were placed under SACEUR's control and not subject to US veto?

The subject of this estimate is presently under consideration in this Department as well as in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. I think, therefore, that you will find general interest in this project, and I hope you may find it possible to schedule the estimate for early consideration by the USEIB, if possible, by the end of this month.

Sincerely,

The Honorable

Allen W. Dulles,

The Director of Central Intelligence

Approved For Release 2003/09/02 : CIA-RDP80B01676R000900080041-2
Washington, D.C. 20505

Hugh S. Cumming, Jr.

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